

REMARKS

[0003] Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. Claims 1-11, 14-21, 24-29 and 32-39 are presently pending. Claims amended herein are 1, 9, 17, 26-27, 32 and 37-38. Claims withdrawn or cancelled herein are 12-13, 22-23, 30-31 and 40. New claims added herein are none.

Statement of Substance of Interview

[0004] Examiner Thomas and Supervisory Examiner Werner graciously talked with me—the undersigned representative for the Applicant—on September 19, 2007. Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's willingness to talk. Such willingness is invaluable to both of us in our common goal of an expedited prosecution of this patent application.

[0005] During the interview, I proposed an amended claim 1 which incorporated the elements of allowed claim 13.

[0006] I understood the Examiners to agree that independent claim 1 would be patentable over the cited art if amended as discussed during the interview. However, the Examiners indicated that they may need to review the cited art more carefully and/or do another search, and requested that the proposed amendments be presented in writing. In addition, a proposed amended claim 9 was presented regarding the Examiner's 112 rejections. The Examiners stated that claim 9 as amended would overcome their 112 rejections.

[0007] Applicant herein amends the claims in the manner discussed during the interview. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reasons discussed during the interview.

Formal Request for an Interview

[0008] If the Examiner's reply to this communication is anything other than allowance of all pending claims, then I formally request an interview with the Examiner. I encourage the Examiner to call me—the undersigned representative for the Applicant—so that we can talk about this matter so as to resolve any outstanding issues quickly and efficiently over the phone.

[0009] Please contact me or my assistant to schedule a date and time for a telephone interview that is most convenient for both of us. While email works great for us, I welcome your call to either of us as well. Our contact information may be found on the last page of this response.

Claim Amendments and Additions

[0010] Without conceding the propriety of the rejections herein and in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant amends claims 1, 9, 17, 26-27, 32 and 37-38 herein.

Formal Matters

Drawings

[0011] The Examiner objects to Figures 1-3, 9-11, 12, 16 and 18-28 for being too dark in their scanned form. Herewith, Applicant submits replacement drawings for Figures 1-3, 9-11, 12, 16 and 18-28 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

Substantive Matters

Claim Rejections under § 112

[0012] Claims 9, 27 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd ¶. In light of the amendments presented herein as well as agreement reached during the Examiner interview, Applicant submits that these rejections are moot. Accordingly, Applicant asks the Examiner to withdraw these rejections.

Claim Rejections under § 102 and/or 103

[0013] Claims 1, 5-8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 26, 28, 30, 37, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen (US Patent 6,556,704). Claims 2-4, 9, 17-20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 32-33, 35 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in combination with Hamilton (US Patent 6,075,889). Claims 11, 14, 21, 29 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in combination with Hamilton and Kang (US Patent 6,879,731). Dependent claims 13, 23, 31 and 36 constitute allowable subject matter in light of Chen, Hamilton and Kang, and are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The elements of these allowed claims have been incorporated into their associated independent claims.

[0014] In light of the amendments presented herein and the decisions/agreements reached during the above-discussed Examiner interview, Applicant submits that these rejections are moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these rejections and allow all pending claims.

Dependent Claims

[0015] In addition to its own merits, each dependent claim is allowable for the same reasons that its base claim is allowable. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of each dependent claim where its base claim is allowable.

Conclusion

[0016] All pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the **Examiner is urged to contact me before issuing a subsequent Action.** Please call/email me or my assistant at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

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